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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 2 October 2017, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Jürgenson ..... (Estonia)

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General debate (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Blanchard** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and his own country, said that significant progress had been made in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development over the previous two years. Sustainable Development Goal 5 must be at the forefront of the collective efforts as the most effective way of eliminating poverty, promoting inclusive prosperity and achieving lasting peace and sustainable development. An estimated $28 trillion was missing from the global gross domestic product because not one country had successfully achieved gender equality. Women and girls deserved the same opportunities as men and boys and must be treated equally with them.

2. To fulfil the commitment to leave no one behind, greater attention must be paid to the poorest and most vulnerable people. Consequently, the unique challenges of small island developing States must be given the utmost attention. Efforts and resources must also be focused on the least developed countries to ensure they did not fall farther behind, and the special challenges of landlocked developing countries must be recognized and addressed.

3. Globally, one in seven people had a disability; they and their families were often disproportionately affected by poverty. Barriers to participation for people with disabilities must be addressed to ensure that they and their families were beneficiaries, leaders, and agents of change and development.

4. The Sustainable Development Goals applied to all countries, without exception. Canada, Australia and New Zealand were directing much of their domestic implementation towards the indigenous peoples of the three countries, all too often left furthest behind, and towards promoting inclusivity, pluralism and peaceful coexistence within their increasingly diverse societies. The satisfaction of human needs for greater equality and decent work would also be a focus, through policies to expand opportunities for business, create good, well-paying jobs and deliver real economic growth that benefited all citizens, not just the wealthiest. In that regard, Canada, Australia and New Zealand would continue to pursue a progressive agenda, promoting meaningful trade liberalization to ensure that the benefits of trade were broadly enjoyed across their societies. They reaffirmed the importance they attached to the World Trade Organization.

5. It was of central importance to forge new partnerships that engaged citizens, all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, civil society and academia. It was equally necessary to engage with the private sector, encouraging greater emphasis on sustainability and mobilizing the trillions of dollars required for a sustainable future for all. The need to create multidimensional partnerships was most evident in confronting the challenge of climate change. Australia, New Zealand and Canada would continue to fight for the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the only global plan that could realistically achieve success. Everyone had a responsibility to future generations; Australia, New Zealand and Canada would not let the historic opportunity to build clean, growing, and forward-looking economies pass by.

6. Australia, New Zealand and Canada lent their full support to the endeavours of the Secretary-General to reform the United Nations and make its management systems more efficient and accountable. There should be more women in senior positions and the United Nations development system should be refocused to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. **Mr. Padilla** (Costa Rica) stressed the importance of ensuring linkages among the Sustainable Development Goals. Poverty eradication must be approached from a multidimensional perspective. Macroeconomic indicators, particularly per capita income, could not reflect the capabilities of individual countries to overcome poverty, ensure access to decent work, eliminate income inequality, effectively empower women and overcome socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities.

8. Costa Rica attached great importance to the promotion of good governance, especially in tax and trade policies; that would enable the mobilization of development resources, achieve appropriate redistribution of wealth and create a favourable economic environment for businesses. It welcomed the significant contribution of peer-to-peer learning on fiscal matters. In order to implement durable strategies for sustainable development, it was essential to promote transparent governance, free from corruption. It was therefore important to detect and prevent illicit financial flows and promote initiatives favouring open government, accountability and compliance with international standards such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

9. Costa Rica sought to promote an ambitious vision on the environment and combating climate change. As such, it wished to share its experience in forest conservation and generating renewable energy as part

of the deep decarbonization of the economy. It was essential to strengthen the joint action and commitments framed by the Paris Agreement and reflect them in the language of the Committee's draft resolutions.

10. Costa Rica acknowledged the importance of the Secretary-General's strategy to reposition the United Nations development system to align with achieving the 2030 Agenda and ensure efficient resource use and the avoidance of duplication in the work of the agencies. It would be crucial to incorporate a multidimensional vision of development that transcended per capita income in order to restructure country classification and better respond to the individual capacities and constraints of each country, following the guidelines of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development.

11. The role of the United Nations development system in responding to the special needs of middle-income countries must be revisited. A comprehensive strategy was needed for their effective advancement through international cooperation, particularly in the areas of capacity-building, knowledge and technology transfer, and support in creating sustainable infrastructure and gaining access to financing for sustainable development.

12. His country affirmed the importance of promoting access to high-quality disaggregated data for developing countries in order to create evidence-based policy and monitor progress in sustainable development. There was also a need for greater international cooperation in support of policies and programmes to increase public and private investment, both national and international, in sustainable development.

13. **Ms. Tshering** (Bhutan), said that while there was a long way to go in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Secretary-General's commitment to reform of the United Nations development system was a source of encouragement.

14. Her country would launch its 12th five year development plan in 2018, into which it had integrated the Sustainable Development Goals, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. Bhutan had been identified as a country eligible to graduate out of the least developed country category; it would be holding its third parliamentary elections in 2018, just when donors were phasing out their assistance because of the modest success achieved. Strengthening of global partnership and of the means of implementation, including official development assistance (ODA), would therefore be of critical importance in ensuring a smooth transition.

15. Bhutan would need to focus on the Sustainable Development Goals related to the economy, Goals 7 through 10. Developing a robust private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises; structural transformation and economic diversification; promoting foreign direct investment; and building strong and resilient infrastructure would position her country to achieve the remaining Goals. Bhutan therefore appealed to its development partners to provide support in those areas and for the establishment and full and early operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries.

16. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that implementing the Sustainable Development Goals would greatly depend on facilitating the necessary means of implementation for developing countries, which would require more effective international support and solidarity. The United Nations should coordinate and strengthen the global partnership for sustainable development at the regional and international levels. The eradication of poverty was the greatest of the many common challenges. The next report of the Secretary-General on repositioning the United Nations development system should address national and regional needs and priorities. The operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be a key contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through strengthening the capacities of developing countries.

17. Sustainable development and peace could only flourish together. Conflict, extremism and wars had risen in recent years, and continued to affect the Middle East, forcing millions into abject poverty. Poverty, and other needs and challenges, must be addressed to achieve regional stability, prosperity and the Goals. A universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, depoliticized and equitable multilateral trading system that contributed to growth and sustained development was indispensable, especially for developing countries.

18. His country's sixth national development plan focused on poverty eradication and sustainable development. National efforts had led to a positive change in the Human Development Index in recent years and the Legatum Prosperity Index had improved

in 2016 compared with 2013. Progress had also been made in some targets for Sustainable Development Goal 2, resulting in a reduction in malnutrition of over 65 per cent among children under the age of five. As public health was a key priority, his Government had launched a major new programme aimed at providing universal health coverage by 2025, five years before the target date for the related Goal. Over 90 per cent of the population was able to access potable water and sanitation, and more than 40 per cent of the population was connected to modern municipal wastewater facilities.

19. His Government also sought to end illiteracy and provide free public education. Non-governmental and private sector actors were significant contributors to education and provided 12 per cent of public education, 85 per cent of tertiary education and 65 per cent of technical, vocational and skills training.

20. The adverse consequences of climate change remained a common challenge; his Government's efforts to mitigate emissions had been unsuccessful, in particular owing to the impact of unjust unilateral sanctions. Despite those circumstances, his country had drawn up plans and programmes to transition toward a low carbon economy, and national development plans would be implemented with due consideration for a climate resistance approach in all aspects. Land degradation, desertification, land reclamation, pollution, habitat destruction, sea level rise, climate change, water scarcity, dust and sand storms and mass mortality of marine life were all regional challenges; his country continued to seek opportunities to collaborate at the regional and subregional levels to create an efficient framework to achieve regional sustainable development goals.

21. **Mr. Djani** (Indonesia) said that, although some progress had been made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the pace for many of the targets was lagging. Vast numbers of people still lived in poverty, with limited access to healthcare, education and economic opportunities. Climate change and rising sea levels posed a threat to archipelagic and small island developing States. The global community needed to work harder to address such concerns, bearing in mind the interdependence of all elements of the Agenda.

22. Despite the mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals by many countries into their national and local development strategies, those efforts alone were insufficient, in view of the cross-border nature of the challenges and scattered resources for implementation. The Committee should play a key role in working together to tackle the challenges in an innovative manner on a number of key fronts. Global partnership must be strengthened and revitalized in an efficient and effective manner. At the international level, States, United Nations bodies and development organizations, international non-governmental organizations and multinational corporations, as well as academic and research institutions, must all work together. At the national and local levels, close collaboration must be achieved between Governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, philanthropists, academia and local residents. The Committee should promote synergistic, concerted and complementary efforts among stakeholders at all levels.

23. Coherence in the implementation of internationally agreed commitments related to sustainable development must be ensured, as they were interlinked and potentially overlapping. In that regard, in June 2017, at the Ocean Conference, his country had registered 12 voluntary commitments to prevent further destruction of the ocean, including initiatives related to illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities, the reduction of plastic debris as a principal marine pollutant, and the conservation and sustainability of marine resources.

24. The Committee should promote discussion of ways to enhance coordination and cooperation on international migration and human mobility, including the protection of migrant workers It should monitor the implementation of all commitments to ensure that support was provided for the achievement of local objectives, keeping in mind the specific needs and challenges of countries in special situations.

25. Ensuring sufficient capacity and resources was a prerequisite for the attainment of the internationally agreed commitments related to the Sustainable Development Goals. With its bird's eye view of global capacities and resources, the Committee could ensure that any capacity and/or resources lacking were remedied. The fulfilment of ODA commitments was another important element of financing for development, to be combined with domestic resources.

26. Indonesia had established a secretariat and related institutions via presidential decree to coordinate and implement the Sustainable Development Goals and monitor progress through a multi-stakeholder approach.

27. **Ms. Flores** (Panama) said that in a complex and challenging international context and in the midst of reforms to the United Nations system, multilateral cooperation was vital, not only in terms of economic resources but also in respect of capacity-building and

sharing of best practices. In order to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the needs of developing countries must be addressed. Middle-income developing countries faced enormous challenges, especially high levels of poverty and inequality. The development of an integrated action plan for cooperation with those countries was of great importance, as was the creation of metrics that reflected the multidimensional nature of poverty and development. Her country was advocating for middle-income countries to be recognized as recipients of cooperation, in order to guarantee the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while also bearing in mind their increasing role in providing cooperation. South-South cooperation had gained increasing momentum and rather than replacing North-South cooperation, should complement and strengthen it.

28. Recent natural disasters in Cuba, the Caribbean countries, Mexico and the United States of America highlighted the need for increasing solidarity and mutual assistance between countries. To achieve the Goals, it was imperative to implement the Paris Agreement. The impact of climate change loomed ever larger and no nation or community would escape its effects.

29. Panama maintained its position on global economic governance and underscored the importance of broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in decision-making and standard-setting processes. Work must continue to strengthen the financial transparency of the global system: its inappropriate use was not the result of the legislation or policies of any one country but rather of an immoral global economy, which operated to the detriment of the most vulnerable people around the world. Efforts to eradicate illicit financial flows by 2030 must continue, especially the fight against tax evasion and corruption, through the strengthening of domestic regulations and increasing international cooperation.

30. **Ms. Currie** (United States of America) said that her delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's vision for reform of the United Nations to better serve the people of all countries; that vision must be taken to heart in the Committee. Her country was confident that by working together and championing truly bold reforms, the United Nations would emerge as a stronger, more effective, more just and greater force for peace and harmony in the world.

31. The Committee could not be immune to the calls for reform or beholden to the ways of the past. It must focus its time and energy on work with real impact. There were too many words and not enough action; too much politicization and not enough results. Efforts must be made to limit overlap and duplication and to have fewer reports and shorter, more effective negotiations with real outcomes. Resources were limited and could not be wasted on outdated, irrelevant and ineffective resolutions, negotiations, meetings, conferences and reports. While the Committee had made progress in 2016 in its attempts to keep to a tight schedule with minimal extensions, much more needed to be done. Specifically, substantive progress under agenda items should be expected, and resolutions should be streamlined and consolidated to limit multiple negotiations on related issues. Deadlines must be respected for both submission of resolutions and conclusion of negotiations and it should be ensured that the Committee concluded its work efficiently and on time.

32. For its part, her delegation would not negotiate on draft resolutions after the official date for the close of the Committee's session, at informal meetings or without programme budget implications. If the Committee reverted to its old, unproductive practices, the United States would have no choice but to rely on votes to oppose draft resolutions that were duplicative or that contained language with well-known redlines. It did not want to take that route but would prefer instead to work with all delegations to rationalize the agenda in order to maximize impact on the economic and development issues that were important to everyone. However, all delegations must work together to maximize the resources wisely to achieve those goals. Bold reform meant leaving behind old and wasteful ways.

33. The Committee's draft resolutions should be aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the recent transformative multilateral agreements, which constituted the core of the United Nations development mandate. The United States firmly believed that Member States could and should work together to formulate concrete solutions to difficult challenges. The key to success was to communicate early and often. Agreement would surely not be universal, but compromises should be reached to avoid repeated confrontations on issues where, even with the best of intentions, consensus was simply not possible.

34. **Mr. Madisa** (Botswana) said it was imperative to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Climate change was one of the greatest threats to achieving sustainable development worldwide, with negative impacts that including reduced agricultural production, increased food insecurity and water stress.

In that regard, his country reaffirmed its commitment to the Paris Agreement.

35. Given the vulnerabilities of the landlocked developing countries, it was critical to implement the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in tandem with the 2030 Agenda; technical assistance, capacity-building and financial support were of critical importance to mitigate the impacts on those countries of their lack of access to the sea. Integrating those countries into the global economy by facilitating the export of their goods and services would require infrastructure development, trade liberalization and the harmonization of rules of origin and transit.

36. His delegation was pleased that the current session coincided with the biennial consideration of agenda item 21 (d), entitled "Development cooperation with middle-income countries", since those countries accounted for 70 per cent of the world's population, one third of global gross domestic product and 73 per cent of the world's poor. Without improved coordination between the United Nations system and such countries, they risked sliding back into low income status and failing to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

37. His delegation stressed the importance of following up on the Secretary-General's report entitled "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (A/72/64). Despite significant progress, Africa remained the world's least connected region and was thus unable to reap the full benefits of the information technology revolution that was key to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. The continent required greater outside investment in technology infrastructure, services, skills development and content.

38. **Mr. Salam** (Lebanon) said that implementing the 2030 Agenda would stretch the financial, institutional and human capacities of most developing countries, including middle-income countries; the role of the United Nations development system would therefore be critical in helping those countries implement the Agenda and harmonize it into their national development plans. In that regard, the new quadrennial comprehensive policy review (General Assembly resolution 71/243) would provide an indispensable framework.

39. The resolution's call for entities of the United Nations development system to enhance coordination with humanitarian and peacebuilding efforts at the national level in countries facing humanitarian emergencies and in conflict and post-conflict situations had particular resonance for Lebanon due to the influx of more than 1.2 million refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic. That massive influx had compounded existing challenges, slowing economic growth, increasing unemployment and poverty levels and overburdening infrastructure. Coordination with United Nations entities was therefore vital in order to meet the needs of both refugees and their host communities In October 2016 his Government and the United Nations system had signed a new strategic framework for the period 2017–2020 that reflected a "Whole of Lebanon" approach in view of the multidimensional challenges facing Lebanon and the multiple mandates under which the United Nations was operating in the country. That new framework was particularly important in bringing the expertise and resources of the United Nations to bear as Lebanon addressed the security, political, governance and socioeconomic challenges to its stability.

40. The marine oil spill caused by Israel's destruction of the oil storage tanks at El-Jiyeh in July 2006 and its military blockade continued to impact human health, economic growth, and efforts to achieve sustainable development in Lebanon. He urged the international community to adopt another resolution on the topic, at the current session, calling on Israel to assume responsibility for the costs of repairing the damage.

41. **Mr. Plasai** (Thailand) said that meeting all the goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 would be impossible at the current pace of implementation. Balanced progress must be ensured in all economic, social and environmental dimensions. A people-centred development approach should guide all national development efforts, with the participation of all stakeholders. Thailand sought to foster partnerships among the public and private sectors and the people and supported the engagement of the private sector in promoting sustainability. It was also empowering local communities to find local solutions to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

42. As part of its efforts to address growing inequality, his Government was implementing a policy to enhance human resource development and build an innovative and value-based economy. It had also introduced a universal health scheme, now covering close to 100 per cent of its population, and an education scheme that provided 15 years of free education to all Thai boys and girls. Both schemes had been extended to include various groups of migrants. His Government accorded priority to achieving gender equality and promoting women's economic

empowerment and continued to promote women's access to finance and job opportunities for women, especially rural women and women with specific needs.

43. Thailand was committed to the global efforts to fight climate change and was fulfilling its obligations under multilateral environmental agreements. Further initiatives were being implemented to mainstream the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 into national legislation and policies. In view of the crucial role of international cooperation in that realm, Thailand had been making regular voluntary contributions to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and South-East Asian Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and had recently pledged $150,000 to assist in the ongoing relief efforts in the aftermath of hurricane Irma.

44. Finally, welcoming the outcome of the second Financing for Development Forum to advance the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, he stressed the importance of ODA, domestic resource mobilization secured through good governance, and domestic and international public-private partnerships as well as South-South and triangular cooperation. Thailand was engaging in technical cooperation and sharing its development approach with many countries in Asia and the Pacific and in Africa. It welcomed the reopening of the Bangkok office of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

45. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that the past two years had seen significant milestones on the path towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Following the recent spate of national disasters in the Caribbean, Mexico and parts of the United States of America, his Government had made a contribution for relief and rehabilitation efforts in a spirit of solidarity. Those crises had called renewed attention to anthropogenic factors in climate change and had highlighted the need for attention to resilience and disaster risk reduction and the transition to renewable energy. His country fully embraced the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and had hosted the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in November 2016. It was also taking action to promote renewable energy transition and had launched the International Solar Alliance to mobilize transnational resources and promote research and development in that realm. It would be hosting a solar summit, "Intersolar India 2017", in December 2017.

46. Reform of the United Nations development system would be critical for keeping the focus on poverty eradication as the primary goal of the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, it would be vital to ensure that resources meant for development programmes were not diverted to other efforts, since that would impact the prospects of the developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States.

47. India's national policies focused on poverty eradication, healthcare, education, gender, skills and employment, energy and infrastructure development. Initiatives were underway to advance financial inclusion, including greater access to bank accounts and credit as well as subsidized cooking gas. India attached great importance to enhancing its global partnerships with other developing countries, especially those in more vulnerable situations, across a broad range of sectors as part of Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda. In June 2017, his country had established the india-United Nations Development Partnership Fund to enhance its contribution to South-South cooperation.

48. **Ms. Nguyen** (Viet Nam) said that the Committee needed to take advantage of the momentum of the first two years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While each country was responsible for accelerating the implementation of the Goals, international cooperation was crucial to ensure an enabling environment for eradicating poverty, addressing inequality and achieving sustainable development. Several priorities had emerged that should be addressed with heightened urgency at the international level. All development stakeholders needed to step up their efforts to assist the countries that were most vulnerable to natural disasters, including her own. To enhance preparedness, long-term and integrated solutions were needed. In that regard, Viet Nam welcomed the Blueprint for Action prepared by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs aimed at addressing the El Niño-Southern Oscillation.

49. Measures to level the playing field in international trade by promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system were also of vital importance in order to enable countries to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

50. Unfortunately, the benefits of scientific and technological innovation remained a distant promise for the majority of the poor. Despite Viet Nam's rapid progress in information and communications

technology, it faced challenges such as the slow growth of e-commerce and the digital divide between developed and developing countries. Her Government therefore called on development partners to take the lead in providing technical assistance, capacity-building and technology and knowledge transfer. Viet Nam welcomed the efforts to operationalize the Technology Facilitation Mechanism.

51. As a lower middle-income country, Viet Nam still had inherent vulnerabilities. Her delegation called on donor countries to fulfil their ODA commitments and carry out other concessional finance programmes to enhance the resilience of middle-income countries. In that regard, she urged the United Nations system to develop comprehensive methods to track the progress of sustainable development via measures that went beyond per capita income.

52. **Ms. Fisher Tsin** (Israel) urged members of the Committee to renew their commitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Two years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it was important to reexamine its landmark development goals and ensure that they were well on the way to being achieved. Israel was working on several fronts and with many stakeholders to ensure progress. Its priorities would remain to advance gender equality, empower women and girls, nurture young minds across the globe, and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation. It was committed to promoting agricultural technology for sustainable development to achieve a world free of hunger.

53. She stressed the importance of improved coordination between the Committee and other United Nations bodies, with a view to harmonizing the Committee's work on the 2030 Agenda to ensure the greatest impact. In that spirit, her delegation hoped that partnership and professionalism would override politics in the Committee.

54. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) said that it was important to make maximum use of the Committee's potential to promote sustainable development, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as to respond to new long-term challenges whose consequences were difficult to predict.

55. The Russian Federation was systematically increasing its contribution to sustainable development by implementing wide-ranging environmental programmes, including in the Arctic, providing increased quantities of high-quality food to global markets and broadening its participation in programmes of the World Health Organization. In 2016, it had allocated $1.16 billion in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, in recent years his country had written off $20 billion in debt owed by African countries.

56. In his country's view, the most pressing issues before the Committee were globalization, technology development, combating climate change, and the development of human resources. Globalization should be built on openness to cooperation and broad international collaboration based on the equal rights of all participants and respect for their mutual interests, not on economic or political diktat and the imposition of unilateral decisions. Integration initiatives could be the structural elements of that process. The adoption of multilateral and bilateral agreements, including on free trade zones, could result in the establishment of significant partnerships that would open a new page in the history of globalization. That was the objective of the broad Eurasian partnership proposed by the President of the Russian Federation that would include the Eurasian Economic Union, the "One belt, one road" initiative and other Eurasian integration initiatives and would carry out major joint projects in the areas of transport, energy and communications which would provide new opportunities for development.

57. The practice of imposing unilateral financial and trade restrictions as an instrument to pressure foreign political opponents could not be ignored. Any sanctions that bypassed Security Council resolutions were counterproductive; his country called for a complete rejection of that practice.

58. Serious attention needed to be paid to the growing risks to the global economic system posed by both national and corporate debt. It was vital to develop a mechanism for restructuring sovereign debt that could be activated in situations where such problems arose in a heavily-indebted country.

59. It was important to take a hard look at issues involved in technological development, specifically the digital economy, which had given rise to qualitatively new models for business, trade, logistics and manufacturing, and was changing the format of education, healthcare, governance and communications, creating a new development paradigm. A new, flexible set of international norms needed to be established for the incorporation of digital technologies in all spheres of life, in all cases taking into account the need to ensure information security for the State, business and the public.

60. Combating climate change was not only an environmental protection issue but also an economic one. The goal of a less than 2 degree Celsius rise in

temperature established by the Paris Agreement would require massive modernization of manufacturing. The international community and individual countries were only beginning to seek the necessary funding for such a transformation. The Russian Federation had voluntarily committed itself to reducing its emissions by 2030 to 70 per cent of its 1990 levels. However, his country would take specific decisions taking into account decisions on the operationalization of the Paris Agreement to be taken within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

61. Special attention needed to be devoted to human resources. The issue of unemployment, in particular of youth, was more pressing than ever. As one measure to address the issue, his country was proposing that partners participate in the development of a Russian international scientific and technological cluster that would support start-ups, including with venture financing, operate a network of laboratories to carry out joint scientific research and create a modern business infrastructure, including business and convention centres.

62. His delegation called on all countries and interested parties to pool their efforts to overcome current imbalances, ensure the sustainable growth of the global economy, develop fair rules for trade and competition, reduce poverty and resolve the world's acute environmental protection problems.

63. **Ms. Khyne** (Myanmar) said that, despite considerable progress, a high degree of inequality existed across regions and the least developed countries, including Myanmar, lagged far behind many of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, disparities remained between the least developed countries that had met the criteria for graduation and those in which poverty persisted. With a view to eliminating inequality and eradicating poverty, integrated approaches needed to be taken across the economic, social and environmental dimension, taking into account the unique needs and priorities of individual countries. A strong commitment to global partnership was essential, as was the fulfilment of ODA commitments, especially for the least developed countries. Her delegation was concerned by the decline of ODA in 2016, and also by economic repercussions following global declines in commodity prices and the slowdown in world trade.

64. Her delegation welcomed the establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and stressed the importance of South-South cooperation for the exchange of knowledge and resources. Furthermore, in order to properly track progress and make informed decisions along the way, investment in strengthening statistical capacity would be essential. To that end, her country welcomed the adoption of the global indicator framework; her Government, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), had recently published a national report which included baseline data for 60 per cent of the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

65. Another crucial challenge was climate change, which disproportionately affected the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations. Myanmar, which was particularly vulnerable to climate-induced natural disasters, had recently ratified both the Paris Agreement and the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol; it was concerned, however, that many of the least developed countries would be unable to absorb the financial challenges required to implement the Paris Agreement, and urged that more be done to make climate financing more accessible for them.

66. Myanmar's 2016 national economic and development policy aimed to achieve people-centred, inclusive and sustainable development. Her Government was continuing its efforts to achieve peace and stability, which were fundamental to achieving sustained and equitable development. A peace and reconciliation process was currently underway, and two Union Peace Conferences had been held with a view to establishing a federal democratic union. Meanwhile, Myanmar was investing more in healthcare, education and infrastructure and was implementing a financial inclusion roadmap formulated with the assistance of UNDP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund. Her Government was cooperating closely with its development partners to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets. It would be hosting the third Asia-Pacific Water Summit in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum on 11–12 December 2017 with a view to enhancing regional political commitments to building climate-resilient economies on the foundation of water security.

67. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that his Government's development plans and policies were aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account national priorities, needs and circumstances, particularly its biological and cultural diversity. Peru promoted the protection of human rights, the preservation of the environment, gender equality and the empowerment of women, and was providing quality public services that would significantly impact its people. Ensuring access to potable water and sanitation services was its greatest

priority. As a member of the High Level Panel on Water, Peru was taking actions geared towards cementing the right of everyone to access those services.

68. Peru was also committed to the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. Accordingly, it had created a multisector working group to guide the transition towards a low-carbon economy, with a view to fulfilling its voluntary national commitments and making it possible to integrate climate adaptation measures into its sustainable development policies with a view to reducing vulnerability.

69. Recent devastating hurricanes and earthquakes had shown that natural disasters affected all countries regardless of their development category. As a vulnerable country, Peru would continue to actively participate in the Committee's activities for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

70. **Ms. Rodriguez Camejo** (Cuba) said that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals which would require a strong commitment, political will and cooperation between all Member States. The Committee must work on the basis of constructive debate, mutual respect and the sovereign equality of its members. Compliance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations must be ensured and the imposition of non-consensual proposals that represented only the interests of developed countries must be prevented. In its consideration of macroeconomic, financial, business and sustainable development topics, the Committee should seek to eliminate obstacles, gaps and challenges that especially affected the most vulnerable countries.

71. Two years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, global inequality and social polarization persisted and had even worsened, both within developed countries and between them and developing countries. The most powerful States displayed a lack of political will and real commitment to fulfil their international commitments. A new international financial architecture was required to change the prevailing international economic order and eliminate the technology and knowledge monopoly. The industrialized countries must accept their historic debt and abide by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The achievement of the right to development could no longer be postponed.

72. The vast majority of countries in the international community had repeatedly rejected the imposition of unilateral, coercive measures that impeded the full achievement of economic and social development, especially in developing countries. Cuba vigorously rejected that practice and once again urged States to refrain from unilaterally promulgating and implementing economic, financial or trade measures that were incompatible with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The Cuban people had experienced the effects of such measures for more than 50 years as a consequence of the illegal, immoral and unjust economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States Government. Even in the face of such adverse conditions, the people of Cuba remained committed to updating their social and economic model and achieving their 2030 development plan with a view to building an independent, sovereign, prosperous, democratic and sustainable socialist nation.

73. The United Nations was engaged in an ambitious reform process, which should take place in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, through genuine negotiations involving all Member States on a basis of equality. The new development framework must be global, universally applicable and relevant for all countries in facing the challenges to sustainable development, taking into account the diverse realities, capabilities and levels of development of each country, and respecting national policies and priorities.

74. Climate change and its global impacts represented another great challenge that threatened human survival. Although the Paris Agreement was not sufficient to preserve the planet for future generations, it was a starting point and must be maintained and developed. No country could unilaterally renounce its common international and historic responsibility or forget its ecological debt to humanity and future generations. Furthermore, developed countries must change their irrational patterns of production and consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make good on their commitments regarding financing and technology transfer to developing countries.

75. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that while primary responsibility for development rested with national Governments, confronting terrorism was a collective international and regional responsibility. The terrorism going on in his country, which was being exploited for particular political agendas, was not only targeting Syria's development infrastructure and cultural heritage, but also constituted a threat to peace, security and development around the world. His country was also suffering from unilateral coercive measures that amounted to a kind of terrorism in themselves. Additional impediments to development were being created by the exploitation and depletion of natural resources by Israel in the occupied Syrian

Golan, which had been repeatedly condemned in General Assembly resolutions.

76. Even as it confronted the immediate imperative of responding to the crisis, his country had already put forward a national post-crisis programme, as well as a national institutional reform and anti-corruption plan. His Government was in the process of completing measures to accede to the Paris Agreement. He stressed the need for capacity-building for developing countries and the transfer of environment-friendly technologies. It was unfortunate that certain States continued to ignore the principle of national sovereignty over resources and to impose unilateral economic, financial and commercial sanctions. There could be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

77. **Mr. Mhura** (Malawi) said that, despite significant progress over the past year, efforts to achieve the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals must be intensified, with a focus on creating the right mix of policies to enable institutions at all levels to adapt to the ever-evolving and shifting global landscape. Malawi had recalibrated its development initiatives to focus on the enhancement of economic prosperity, social welfare and environmental sustainability.

78. His country recognized the crucial role of information and communications technology in economic growth and development and had thus launched a project in April 2017 to connect all major sectors of the economy and government agencies to a high-speed fibre optical network. Malawi welcomed the establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and looked forward to its full operationalization.

79. While international trade was an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, it was not a panacea for development and needed to be synchronized with other enabling policies and structures. Coupled, however, with appropriate domestic policies and a supportive external environment, it had been one of the most powerful catalysts for economic transformation in poor countries, including in Africa. Developing countries faced impediments to taking advantage of trade arrangements, such as rules of origin and product standards; such barriers to their integration into multilateral trading systems must be addressed.

80. Poverty was the key, cross-cutting factor influencing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, given its short timeframe. Financial and technical assistance must be provided, in line with the commitments made under international agreements, and knowledge transfer and equitable decision-making must be supported in order to address food security, environmental degradation and inequality. It was important to ensure the availability of accurate disaggregated data and adequate development finance and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women.

81. **Mr. Inguanez** (Malta) said that the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement bore witness to the increasing focus on sustainable development over the past two years. While national ownership was key to the full and effective implementation of those global instruments, the United Nations could provide added value in various policy areas; Malta welcomed the revitalization of the Committee's agenda and the reform of the United Nations development system.

82. His country was proud of the results secured during the first six months of 2017, its first time holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, including agreement on a new European Consensus for Development in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the adoption of the Malta Statement on Ending Childhood Obesity at the fourth High-level Meeting of Small Countries in June 2017.

83. At the national level, Malta had launched a strategy for poverty reduction and social inclusion for the 2014–2024 period, characterized by a comprehensive and participatory approach based on the values of solidarity, equality, dignity and respect for fundamental human rights and social justice. The strategy aimed to address three overarching challenges: enhancing sustainable development, promoting empowerment and social solidarity, and consolidating social services, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

84. Malta was at the forefront of initiatives to reduce overfishing and conserve marine biodiversity. Protecting fish stocks was central to its government policy and it had set ambitious targets and commitments that exceeded international and European Union obligations. His country would continue to contribute to the good governance of the oceans by hosting a conference entitled "Our Ocean, An Ocean for Life" in Malta in October 2017. As Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth, Malta had also spearheaded an initiative to develop a "Blue Charter" to assist Commonwealth countries to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14.

85. **Mr. Mahmadaminov** (Tajikistan) said that despite considerable efforts made since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, developing countries continued to face challenges in implementing it. The international community should address the needs of developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Those needs included transit, infrastructure, trade and trade facilitation, industrialization, regional integration, means of implementation and climate change. Tailored and sustainable technical assistance and capacity-building must be channelled towards those countries to address technology infrastructure gaps and capacity constraints. His country urged developed countries to fulfil their unmet ODA commitments.

86. Tajikistan supported the reform of the United Nations development system within the mandates given by Member States in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and without separation of the development, humanitarian and other tracks.

87. His Government accorded high importance to promoting the water agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 6 globally. It had led efforts to launch the International Decade for Action 'Water for Sustainable Development' 2018–2028 and, in September 2017, it had organized a high-level event "Towards Implementation of the International Decade of Action 'Water For Sustainable Development', 2018–2028", an important platform for monitoring and follow-up. Other water-related events would follow in 2018 to mark the commencement of the Decade.

88. **Ms. Picco** (Monaco) said that globalization had stimulated economic growth at the global level but had negatively affected many countries and population groups, which had caused signification opposition towards both globalization and multilateralism. International peace and security seemed to be under greater threat than ever. At the same time, constant technological innovation, especially in the domains of energy and information, should help identify long-lasting solutions to preserve the planet and ensure a prosperous future for all. The Sustainable Development Goals presented an opportunity to recall common principles and ambitions and effect transformative change.

89. The public sector could not be solely responsible for the well-being of society during that transformation, although it must create the conditions to foster the full participation of all and ensure respect for the public interest. The ongoing technological and industrial revolution gave significant power to businesses and civil society in all spheres of international relations. It was therefore critical for those deep changes to go hand in hand with recognition of the common responsibility of the public and private sectors and civil society. However, there was a growing trend towards a lack of trust both between and within sectors; that called for an improvement in governance frameworks, which must be more inclusive to foster more responsible behaviour and joint responses to promote partnerships.

90. In Monaco, Prince Albert II had ordered the Government to overhaul its economic model, including management of natural heritage, implementation of a climate-focused energy plan, initiatives towards a sustainable city and mobilization of the people. The effort would involve green construction and transportation and sustainable management of water and waste. The Principality was implementing an ambitious plan for ecological responsibility and making significant urban development investments to modernize its infrastructure. It had created an official body that brought together public and private partners to monitor industry developments towards a sustainable and diverse economy. It was also supporting local non-governmental organizations in creating initiatives linked with the 2030 Agenda.

91. Regarding research and development, her country had made significant strides in creating partnerships between private companies and researchers. It had welcomed initiatives to promote and spread proprietary technology through events that brought together scientists, civil society actors, international organizations and private companies from around the world.

92. Transportation was important in sustainable development, and Monaco had therefore supported projects which had sent around the world the first ship and aircraft powered exclusively by solar power. Other events on renewable energy and green vehicles had been held, and Monaco had also created a business incubator for start-up companies which provided financing for innovative technology projects. It would continue to make significant investments to maintain economic growth and mobilize the resources and actors required to promote research and innovation. It would also significantly increase its ODA by 2020, mainly towards least developed countries.

93. **Mr. Hahn** (Republic of Korea) said that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda required continuing discussion of reforms of the United Nations development system aimed at breaking down silos and strengthening the nexus across the three pillars of the

Charter of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development. It was also vital to improve the funding architecture so as to incentivize collaboration among agencies and with a range of stakeholders, including the private sector, international financial institutions and vertical funds, while preventing zero-sum competition between agencies. Increased accountability and transparency along with enhanced effectiveness and efficiency were essential.

94. Effective follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were of crucial importance. His country welcomed the successful conclusion of the 2017 high-level political forum and looked forward to the further strengthening and refinement of its processes. He stressed the importance of quality disaggregated data and the need for all countries to have national statistical capacity to ensure implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, he also welcomed the outcome of the second Financing for Development Forum.

95. As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, the Republic of Korea would stand by its pledges and would participate actively in the follow-up negotiations to establish the rulebook for its implementation, as mandated by the twenty-second Conference of the Parties held in 2016. At the national level, his country was scaling up its efforts to meet the 2030 greenhouse gases reduction target with a view to transforming itself into a sustainable low-carbon economy. It would also endeavour to support developing countries in responding and adapting to climate change through the Green Climate Fund and the Global Green Growth Institute.

96. Efforts for disaster risk reduction must be strengthened, particularly in light of the scale and frequency of recent events. Sustainable urbanization was a core component of sustainable development, especially in light of the New Urban Agenda for the Twenty-first Century. His country was prepared to engage with efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in conjunction with the reform of the United Nations development system.

97. While continuing to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals into its ODA policies, the Republic of Korea was prepared to share its development experience in such priority aspects of the 2030 Agenda as education, health, gender equality, inclusive and sustainable growth and the rule of law and governance.

98. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia) said the reform of the United Nations development system demonstrated the need to focus on efficiency and the achievement of concrete, measurable, long-term results. That process should seek to avoid duplication, maximize resources, more clearly define agency mandates and respond to the priorities of Member States. The reform of UN-Habitat, for example, was an opportunity to make the agency a model of transparency and efficiency and facilitate sustainable development and the full implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

99. In the context of reform, greater attention must be paid to financing for development. It was important to align the overall reform process with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in order to fully implement the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, it was vital to overcome the entrenched inertia of an international development financing system that benefited certain interests and lacked accountability. It was very important for developed countries to fulfil their commitments for ODA and climate financing. The need to mobilize both financial and non-financial resources to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda must be kept in mind.

100. As the Committee discussed mechanisms to advance not only technology transfer but all the other commitments embodied in the 2030 Agenda and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, it must be borne in mind that middle-income countries required differentiated access to the mobilization of external resources, capital markets and concessionary finance and trade, as well as to instruments for attracting direct, quality foreign investment. The relationship of the United Nations system with international financial entities, the private sector and other relevant actors should be explored at the highest levels and public-private relationships should be strengthened with a view to achieving tangible results by 2030.

101. **Mr. Skinner-Klée** (Guatemala) said that his country hoped that the restructuring of the United Nations development system would lead to efficiencies in financing for development and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for middle-income countries such as his own, as well as access to development technologies and to tools for monitoring and follow-up. The lack of reliable, disaggregated data continued to be an obstacle to monitoring and follow-up and to the design of appropriate national policies. Guatemala had already begun the process of aligning and integrating its commitments under the 2030 Agenda into its own national development plan.

102. Financing for development was the key to the success of a reformed development system. His country was concerned that access to concessional financing was being reduced as national income rose and urged multilateral development banks and

international financial institutions along with agencies of the United Nations development system to adopt policies that provided for graduated, sequential and incremental support so as to better respond to the different realities and challenges of middle-income countries and ensure effective use of resources.

103. A further concern was excessive volatility in commodity prices, in particular in the context of climate change and natural disasters. Agricultural commodities accounted for roughly 20 per cent of Guatemala's gross domestic product and, along with market manipulation, made his country extremely vulnerable to food and nutritional insecurity. It was important to improve the regulation and transparency of international financial and commodity markets in order to reduce volatility.

104. Combating illicit financial flows was also a top priority for his country, which had achieved some success in recovering laundered money in the wake of several recently adopted laws. He expressed the hope that other countries would adopt similar best practices in the light of both the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

105. The restructuring of UN-Habitat should lead to greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in line with the requirements of the New Urban Agenda. The agency should engage in cross-cutting cooperation with other United Nations agencies, local governments and other stakeholders in promoting sustainable urban development.

106. Finally, he emphasized the importance of sustainable peace and prevention as the key to reform aimed at achieving the foundational promise of the Organization: to free future generations from the scourge of war. His country shared the view that investing more in prevention would lead to fewer social and armed conflicts; the work being done in the area of development represented an investment in prevention.

107. **Mr. Eleyatt** (Mauritania) said that his country had made great strides towards achieving the ambitious targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, with policies that had raised living standards and promoted investment by simplifying regulations and increasing transparency. Mauritania was committed to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. His Government was acting to increase youth employment, and had adopted a policy of positive discrimination that had resulted in women occupying management positions in sectors that had historically been the exclusive province of men. Training courses were being provided to elected women officials to help increase their effectiveness and the access of women to microfinance was being facilitated, especially in rural areas.

108. In the health sector, improvements in infrastructure, equipment and human resources had expanded health coverage and increased the system's capacity to respond to epidemics and emergencies. Progress had been made in reducing infant and maternal mortality and eradicating HIV/AIDS. His Government had also instituted fundamental reforms to promote judicial independence, good governance and transparency in the conduct of public affairs.

109. With desert conditions prevailing over three quarters of its territory, Mauritania had endeavoured to integrate environmental concerns into its economic growth policies, with expanded forestation programmes and enlarged protected areas. He called on the international community to support the ambitious Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative.

110. **Ms. Kabia** (Sierra Leone) said that identifying the eradication of poverty as the overarching goal of the post-2015 development agenda had been a major multilateral achievement. In that regard, her delegation welcomed the establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. However, millions of people in many countries, including her own, still lived in abject poverty and hunger.

111. Sierra Leone had made significant progress in strengthening its political and economic governance and improving social indicators. It had linked each of the 17 goals and 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda to its third national poverty reduction strategy, the Agenda for Prosperity, which aimed to achieve middle-income status for the country by 2035. Implementation of that agenda had already positively impacted peacebuilding in her country, a major challenge that was being met despite the fact that Sierra Leone had been unable to fully achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

112. As a country emerging from conflict, Sierra Leone faced enormous challenges, including a weak governance structure and institutions, low human capital and lack of adequate and predictable financing. It therefore welcomed the recognition of the need for adequate resources for conflict-affected countries. A long-term, stable and predictable flow of financing was of vital importance. Despite the financial and economic challenges facing her country's development partners, continued international development cooperation and the fulfilment of ODA commitments were essential.

113. Climate change could have a disastrous impact on fragile countries like her own. Without improved access to climate finance, adverse impacts would further undermine food security and threaten global peace and security. The recent catastrophic floods and mudslides in Freetown had claimed over 1,000 lives and displaced thousands of people, inflicting extensive damage on a country that only two years earlier had defeated the deadly Ebola virus.

114. International public finance played a critical role in complementing domestic resource mobilization; many least developed countries were struggling to develop their private sectors and to attract significant private foreign investment in areas such as health, education, infrastructure, light manufacturing, fisheries, trade, tourism and industry.

115. **Ms. Moldoisaeva** (Kyrgyz Republic) said that in 2017, as the current chair of the Eurasian Economic Community, her country had presented a first report on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the regional level; it firmly believed that the experience of the Community could contribute to the attainment of the shared global goals. Her Government was also fulfilling its commitments under the 2030 Agenda at the national level. Under the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, it had undertaken a number of robust projects to improve transit and infrastructure, and had achieved energy self-sufficiency and developed a stable energy sector. The national strategy for sustainable development to 2040 would include global indicators of sustainable development and reflect the challenges facing the country. One such challenge was promoting the principles of e-government and building an open society. To that end, the President had launched the Taza Koom programme, aimed at transforming the Kyrgyz Republic into a people-centred State based on modern principles of governance.

116. The problems of climate change were adversely affecting all areas of the Kyrgyz economy due to the greater frequency of natural disasters, which had caused landslides, mudslides, flooding and avalanches in mountainous parts of the country. Moreover, as was well known, a number of large uranium tailings dumps were located close to rivers and water sources. If an accident occurred at any of those sites, the contamination of nearby rivers could cause a major ecological and humanitarian disaster that would jeopardize the lives and health of millions of people as well as the socioeconomic development of all the States of Central Asia. On that basis, on the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 68/218 on the role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia. The results of four years of follow-up to that resolution had been presented at a high-level side event during the general debate at the current session, organized jointly by the Kyrgyz Republic and the European Union.

117. The rapid melting of her country's glaciers was extremely alarming, as they were a source of fresh water not only for Central Asia, but for the entire world. According to forecasts, there could be a 30 to 40 per cent decline in the total surface area of the Kyrgyz glaciers by 2025, and by 2100 they might entirely disappear. Her country therefore called for collaborative projects to preserve the glaciers in the mountainous ecosystems of highland countries.

118. The very survival of humankind, as well as the preservation of the biosphere, were at stake in the transition to sustainable development. As a result of climate change, there was already a clear threat to various species of rare animals and to the biodiversity of her country's mountain ecosystems. The population of snow leopards had declined worldwide by half since the 1990s. In 2013, the Kyrgyz Republic had launched a global forum to preserve those animals and their ecosystem under a single environmental strategy. A second international forum, held in August 2017 in Bishkek, had led to a multi-country regional project to preserve biodiversity, proposed by her country.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.